CONNECTORS

CONTRAST
HOWEVER (pero)
However means 'but'.
However is normally used at the beginning of a sentence, before a comma (,) and
after a full stop (.) or a semicolon (;).
• *We didn't like the hotel. **However**, he had a good time.*
• *I would like to have a cat; **however**, my daughter is allergic to cats.*
ALTHOUGH (a pesar de, aunque)
Although means 'despite the fact that', or 'but'.
Although can be used at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. We do not
use a comma after although; we use although + subject + verb.
• *Although he had a bad leg, he still won the game.*
• *I passed the exam, although I hadn't studied.*

REASON
BECAUSE (porque)
We use because + subject + verb.
• *We had to cancel the concert **because** it was raining.*
• *I didn't call you **because** I didn't want to worry you.*
BECAUSE OF (por, a causa de)
We use because of + noun.
• *We had to cancel the concert **because of** the rain.*
• *Many shops had to close **because of** the economic situation.*

RESULT
SO (por lo que, así que)
So is the most common connector to express result. It is normally used in the middle
of a sentence after (,).
• *We worked hard all morning, **so** I am very tired now.*
• *The TV is very expensive, **so** I don't think I'll buy it.*

TIME
BEFORE (antes, antes de)
We use can use before + noun / -ing verb, or we can use before + subject + verb.
• ***Before** I have breakfast, I read a few pages.*
• ***Before** having breakfast, I read a few pages.*
• ***Before** breakfast, I read a few pages.*
AFTER (después, después de)
We use can use after + noun / -ing verb, or we can use after + subject + verb.
• *I smoke a cigarette **after** dinner/ having dinner/ I have dinner.*
When we are talking about consecutive actions, we can use **then** of **after that**, but
we cannot use *after.

• *I got up and had a shower.* ***Then/After that****, I made breakfast.*

WHILE (mientras)

We use while + subject + verb to talk about actions happening at the same time, simultaneously.

• *I read the newspaper* ***while*** *I was waiting.*

AS SOON AS, WHEN, ONCE (tan pronto como, cuando, una vez que)

As soon as, when, and once have a similar meaning. As soon as means 'immediately when'.

• ***As soon as/when/once*** *I get home, I'll finish my homework.*

We use present simple, and NOT will to express future after as soon as, when, and
once.

• ***When I get home, I'll call you.***

We use a comma after the first part of the sentence when we start with before, after,
while, as soon as, etc. But we do not use a comma if we use before, after, while, as
soon as, etc in the second part of the sentence.

• ***Before*** *I go to bed,* ***I brush my teeth.***

• *I brush my teeth* ***before*** *I go to bed.*

Exercises

Choose the correct forms for the gaps below.

1 We need to buy a new car. _____, we can't afford it right now.
a. Although
b. So
c. However

2 _____ he is very rich and famous, he lives a very normal life.
a. Although
b. However
c. Because

3 They had to cancel the concert _____ the bad weather.
a. so
b. because of
c. however

4 We'll go out _____ it stops raining.
a. although
b. while
c. as soon as

5 He didn't have his car, _____ he had to take a taxi.
a. because

b. so
c. however

6 _____ he was almost deaf, he was a fantastic musician.
a. Although
b. However
c. Because

7 He was expelled from school _____ his bad behaviour.
a. although
b. however
c. because of

8 _____ she has a bit more experience, she'll become a fantastic teacher.
a. Once
b. Before
c. While

9 The first thing I do when I get up is have breakfast. _____, I have a shower
and go to work.
a. After
b. Before
c. After that

10 I usually read the newspaper _____ I'm having breakfast.
a. while
b. after
c. as soon as

Exercise 2
Fill in the gaps with the connectors in the box below.
after / after that / although / as soon as / because / because of / before / however / once / so (x2)

1_____ I arrived home, I put on my pyjamas and I lied down on the sofa. I was exhausted and I wasn't very hungry, 2 _____ I decided not to have anything for dinner. I just got a glass of milk from the fridge. 3_____ I lied on the sofa and I turned on the TV 4_____ I wanted to watch a film. 5_____, there was nothing interesting on TV. I decided to go to bed, 6 _____ I wasn't very sleepy. Once I was in bed, I remembered that I had to take my medication. I can't sleep well at

night 7 _____ my insomnia, 8 _____ I always take a sleeping tablet 9 _____ I go to bed. 10 _____ taking the sleeping tablet, I went back to bed and I could finally sleep.

Exercise 3

Choose **so, because, but, although** to complete the sentences below.

1. We couldn't find a taxi, _____we walked home.
2. _____ it was very cold, she wasn't wearing a coat.
3. I woke up _____ there was a noise.
4. I called him _____ his mobile was turned off.
5. _____ she's very nice, she doesn't have many friends.
6. There was nothing on TV, _____ I went to bed.
7. All the cafés were full _____ it was a public holiday.
8. She studied quite hard _____ she failed the exam.
9. She was crying _____ her team lost the match.
10. They wanted to win _____ it was impossible.

1.Answers
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
c a b c b a c a c a
2.Answers
1.- As soon as - 2.- so - 3.- After that 4.- because - 5.- However - 6.- although - 7.- because of - 8.- so 9.- before - 10.- After
3.Answers
1 – So, 2 – Although, 3 – Because, 4 – But, 5 – Although, 6 – So, 7 – Because, 8 – But, 9 – Because, 10 – But.